(c) whether the audit has pointed out any shortcomings/deficiencies in the system of settling claims; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No refund-claim cases are pending on these Divisional Railway Offices. All cases pertaining to refund are dealt with at Headquarters Office, Bombay. The claim cases for refund pending settlement pertaining to these Divisional Offices are as under:—

Ahmedabad	68
Vadodara	Nil
Rajkot	103
Bhavnagar	58

In addition 636 cases of ticket refunds are pending. However, the record of such cases is not maintained Division-wise.

(b) 30 days.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All out efforts are made to settle the refund-claims cases within the target time.

Restriction on Sale of Railway Time Tables

3781. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any restriction on the sale of All India Time Tables (At a glance) as well as Zonal Railway Time Tables, published by private parties, on book stalls at Railway Stations; and

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Book Stalls at Railway Stations sell official publication/authorised private publication of the Railway Time Tables. W. Newman & Co. Ltd. are authorised private publishers for All India Railway Time Table. Railway Time Table Office, Varanasi, are authorised publishers for Hindi version of Trains at a Glance. Zonal Railways are authorised publishers of their respective Zonal Time Tables. However, Trains at a Glance, a publication of the Ministry of Railways is covered under copyright Act.

Earnest Money for vending contract at Railway Stations

3782. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased tos tate:

(a) whether there is any policy for depositing money as earnest money while applying for a vending contract at Railway Stations; and

(b) if so, the instructions issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Zonal Railways are following the practice of collecting earnest money from the applicants for award of catering/vending licences. Such earnest money is refunded to the unsuccessful applicants after the allotment of licence.

More AC-First Class Coaches in A.P. and T.N. Expresses

3783. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more AC-First Class Coaches will be attached to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Express Trains;

(b) why is this long pending demand not yet considered; and

(c) by when will it be actually implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATFAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Deployment of additional I.A.C. coaches on Andhra Pradesh Express and Tamil Nadu Express is not feasible for want of traffic and room on these trains. However, with the increase in the frequency of Madras and Bangalore Rajdhanis from Weekly to bi-weekly the availability of upper class accommodation has considerably increased on New Delhi-Madras and New Delhi-Secunderabad sectors.

Experiment of Bio-Toilets in Railways

3784. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experiment of Bio-Toilcts- has been successful in the Railways;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) the measures taken to prevent the bad smell;

(d) whether there were any complaints in this regard; and

(e) by when will these be applied on large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An indigenous design 'Bio-Toil' was developed by Integral Coach Factory, Madras which was fitted on 10 AC coaches on trial. These coaches are running successfully on GT/Tamil Nadu Express, Alleppy Express & Mangalore Mail since Feb. 1996.

(c) and (d) Two minor modifications were made to overcome complaints of bad smell. (1) use of trouble free AC exhaust fan in place of earlier DC fans and (2) extension of vent pipe up-to roof level.

(e) The design is ready for large scale implementation but success of its use so that they do not choke up and damage the bacterial bed provided in the bio-tank with non-biodegradable waste. The system will, therefore, be extended slowly. As the first step, two rakes of Cheran Express and Kovai Express of Southern Railway have been selected for extension of bio-toilets.

भरूच- दहेडा रेल लाइन का आमान परिवर्तन

3785. **श्री अहमद पटेल** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार जनता और उद्योग-जगत की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए गुजरात में भरूच-दहेडा रेल लाइन के आमान परिवर्तन के लिए क्या कदम उठाने क विचार रखती है; और

(ख) इस रेल लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में कब तक परिवर्तित कर दिए जाने का प्रस्ताव है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महराज) : (क) और (ख) सर्वेक्षण के आदेश दिये गये हैं। सर्वेक्षण का परिणाम प्राप्त होने के बाद परियोजना पर आगे विचार करना संभव होगा।

मंदार हिल्स रेल लाइन का बिछाया जाना

3786. **श्री जनार्दन यादव** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या दुमका के रास्ते भागलपुर से रामपुर तक की मंदार हिल्स रेल लाइन को बिछाने के कार्य को स्वीकृति दे दी गई है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इस परियोजना को शुरू कर्ने के लिए पिछ्ली सरकार ने 110 करोड़ रुपये की स्वीकृति भी दी थी: और

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भागों के उत्तर " हां" हों तो इस कार्य को कब तक पूरा कर लिए जाने की संभावना है; और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महराज): (क) भागलपुर से मंदार हिल्स तक एक रेल लाइन पहले से ही मौजूद है। दुमका के रास्ते मंदार हिल्स से रामपुर तक एक नयी रेलवे लाइन का निर्माण कार्य 170 करोड़ रू. की लागत से शुरू किया गया है।